

HB24-1322 Feasibility Study Findings

Medicaid Coverage of Housing & Nutrition Services

Presented by: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

December 3, 2024

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose and Vision
- [HB24-1322 Feasibility Study](#)
- Questions
- Next Steps

Speakers

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Medicaid Director

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Waiver Implementation Specialist



Our Mission

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.



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What We Do

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) administers Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program), Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) and other health care programs for Coloradans who qualify.

HRSN at HCPF

HCPF Vision for Health-Related Social Needs

HCPF is committed to covering programs that promote health and wellness.

HCPF is exploring opportunities to expand **services and supports that address HRSN** with the greatest impact on health including, but not limited to, housing, food, transportation, and interpersonal violence.

HCPF Goals for Addressing Health-Related Social Needs

- Understand and support member HRSN needs
- Improve short term and long term member health outcomes
- Partner with community to shape the future of HRSN services provided through Health First Colorado and CHP+

HB24-1322 Feasibility Study



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HB 24-1322 Feasibility Study Requirements

HCPF was asked to study expanding housing and nutrition services, including:

- Explore housing and nutrition services that could be covered under an 1115 waiver
- [Report findings](#)
- Submit an HRSN amendment to the 1115 waiver

Feasibility Assessment Factors

- Meeting CMS parameters
- Evidence base
- Implementation in other states
- Similar services in Colorado
- Cost and funding
- Implementation in Colorado

Background

National Context

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) supports states in addressing HRSN
- [Over 20 states](#) have pursued addressing HRSN through their state Medicaid program
- Additional information can be found [here](#).

Pending HRSN Amendment

HCPF submitted a HRSN amendment request to Colorado's current Expanding the Substance Use Disorder Continuum of Care Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver in August 2024.

This amendment, if approved, is projected to go-live July 1, 2025.

Pending HRSN 1115 Amendment

Services:

- Pre-tenancy and housing transition navigation services
- Rent/temporary housing including utility costs
- Tenancy sustaining services
- Nutrition counseling and instruction
- Medically tailored, home delivered meals
- Home delivered meals or pantry stocking

Pending HRSN 1115 Amendment

Populations include individuals
eligible for:

- Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers
- Colorado Fostering Success vouchers
- Community Access Team vouchers

Housing Analysis

Housing Literature Review

- The housing services under consideration are generally supported by the peer-reviewed literature.
- Permanent Supportive Housing demonstrates a positive and substantial impact on housing stability and health care utilization.

Housing Study Requirements

Housing Eligibility

- Individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness
- Individuals in transitional housing or micro-communities

Housing Study Requirements

Housing Services

- Rental and utility assistance
- Pre-tenancy and tenancy-sustaining services
- Housing transition navigation services
- One-time housing transition and moving costs

Estimated Potential Cost

- HCPF estimates that roughly 201,562 members could fall within the eligible populations included in HB24-1322
- HCPF is not able to provide a cost estimate for provision of housing services to the expanded populations under consideration at this time
- Additional time is needed to further refine eligibility

Nutrition Analysis

Nutrition Literature Review

- Nutrition interventions have emerged as an important strategy in addressing diet-related health conditions and food insecurity among vulnerable populations.
- The field of nutrition research is growing with more robust studies being conducted.

Nutrition Study Requirements

Nutrition Services

- Medically tailored meals
- Pantry stocking
- Produce prescriptions

Nutrition Eligibility

- Individuals who are medically and/or socially vulnerable
- Children and youth
- Pregnant people

Nutrition Services

Existing

- Short-term food assistance under 1915(c) and Community First Choice (1915(k))
 - Not in study
- Home delivered meals under Money Follows The Person

Produce prescriptions are not a Medicaid benefit, yet there are programs in operation through other agencies and community based organizations

Nutrition Eligibility

Population estimates for medically tailored meals and prescription boxes:

- Approximately 271,605 individuals with **diet sensitive conditions** will be eligible. Including but not limited to:
 - Type 2 diabetes, heart failure and chronic liver disease based on literature review findings.

Nutrition Eligibility

- Considering social risk, HCPF assumed 20% of Medicaid members are food insecure based on the Colorado Health Access survey results.
- HCPF estimates that 54,321 individuals with qualifying conditions **and** food insecurity will be eligible for medically tailored meals and prescription boxes.

Nutrition Populations and costs

Cost projections for 54,321 members:

- The total annual cost to provide three medically tailored meals per day and produce/produce box prescriptions: \$752,962,393.
- Two medically tailored meals per day and produce/protein box prescriptions: \$508,493,449.

HCPF is not able to provide a cost estimate for provision of pantry stocking for youth and pregnant people at this time.

Conclusions

Costs

Population or service expansions **beyond what is in the pending 1115 HRSN amendment** would exceed the \$50 million CMS cap, so Colorado would need to meet additional federal financial requirements.

More conversation with state agency partners and the community is needed to determine which services are appropriate for expanded populations to make accurate and feasible cost estimates.

Future Workforce and Infrastructure

To expand HRSN services beyond what is already in place, Colorado will need to:

- Determine infrastructure need
- Leverage existing service infrastructure and reimbursement mechanisms
- Invest in increasing provider capacity
- Maximize federal funding opportunities.

Timelines

- HRSN amendment submitted August 2024.
- HRSN amendment go-live date of July 2025, if approved.
- Through December 2025, HCPF can continue to consider future modifications but may not pursue additional amendments.
- After January 2026, Colorado may further amend the 1115 demonstration to modify or expand services or populations covered under HRSN waiver authority.

HB23-1300 Feasibility Study

HCPF intends to use the HB23-1300 feasibility study to further define eligibility criteria for all housing services and estimate costs for providing these services.

[HB24-1322 results here.](#)

Next Steps



HB 23-1300 Feasibility Study

By January 1, 2026, HCPF shall publish a study to:

- Understand the HRSN of Health First Colorado and CHP+ members
- Identify opportunities
- Analyze options including evidence base, impact and cost
- Determine options for expansion

HB 23-1300 Feasibility Study

The study may consider expanding:

- Service areas:
 - Housing and nutrition
 - Environmental
 - Education

- Population and eligibility:
 - Infants, children, and youth
 - People impacted by natural disasters
 - People experiencing intimate partner violence

Panelists

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Panelists

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Questions?



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